



Iowa FFA Foundation

Cultivating partnerships supporting agricultural education in Iowa

February 2021 | www.iowaffafoundation.org | [Donate](#)

Executive Director's Reflections

Proud, honored, fortunate, grateful – I struggle today to express my overwhelming gratitude for each and every one of you who were able to join us at our Seventh Annual Black Ties Blue Jackets gala on Saturday. When we first had an idea to celebrate FFA week with a fundraiser event, we had dreams of achieving what was fulfilled the past couple years. This year, in the face of all adversity of a pandemic of global scale, you helped us do something many said was not possible – raising more than \$98,000! And yes, if anyone wants to help us break that \$100,000 goal, we are still accepting donations on our event platform (<https://e.givesmart.com/events/hjo/>).



While many organizations in the non-profit world have had their event results significantly reduced or even cut in half – you stepped up in a big way to plant a stake in the ground and exclaim “I BELIEVE in the future of agriculture. With a faith born, not of words, but of deeds!” I am so proud of what we have been able to do together. I am honored you have entrusted us with your investments, we are beyond fortunate to have such loyal and dedicated partners and above all – I am grateful for YOU, because of YOU and your investment, the next generation of agricultural leaders has a bright future.

Thank you so much! Sincerely,

Josh

**7th Annual Black Ties Blue
Jackets Gala Sets Records**



If you take seventy five auction items, four high definition cameras, a few big screen television monitors and more than three hundred people that are passionate about agriculture education and roll them all together you get the 7th Annual Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala! What made this year unique was holding the event in a virtual setting.

Since October, when the committee chose to move to a virtual event, some wondered if our goal of \$90,000 was attainable. Our

friends and partners, people who believe in the mission of the FFA Foundation, came through and not only met our budgeted goal, but exceeded it by raising more than \$98,000.

Thanks to AgVenture, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Great Caterers of Iowa, 4 Seasons Fundraising and the Iowa Beef Industry Council, our VIP partners who came through in a big way, donors above \$1,000 received a Gala in a Box prior to the event.

Individuals and corporate partners bought tables, donated auction items and made monetary donations again and again and again! The seventy-five auction lots saw 1,179 bids placed before the hammer closed on the silent auction netting \$14,845!

With the help of Pinnacle Productions out of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, attendees appeared on the big screen as co-emcees Iowa PAS President, Brittany Woods, and Iowa FFA Association President, Mickayla McGill, took the group through the evening which featured comments from Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds and Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig. FFA and PAS students from across Iowa told the stories of their love for agriculture in short videos and the FFA Creed was presented from FFA members across Iowa to help kick off National FFA Week.

If you missed the event and wish to view it, it can be found in its entirety on the [Iowa FFA Foundation Youtube page](#). Be sure to mark your calendars for the 8th Annual Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala on February 19, 2022!

2021 Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference Moving to Des Moines

The Iowa FFA Association Board has approved a return to in person for the 93rd Iowa FFA Leadership Conference. The

Conference, which will move from Ames to the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, will be held April 18th through the 20th. Details on activities related to the State Leadership Conference can be found on the [Iowa FFA Association website](#) as they become available



Sponsors please note, staff of the Iowa FFA Foundation will contact you as exact details on sessions and recognition become available.

2021 Golden Owl Finalists Named

Seven Agriculture Educators across the state of Iowa have been named as finalists for the 2021 Iowa Golden Owl Award. The finalists consist of one instructor from each of Iowa's six FFA districts and one from Iowa's post secondary institutions. Each finalist received a plaque and a check for \$500. The finalists will participate in a round of interviews prior to the 93rd

Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference in April, with the Iowa Golden Owl Award winner announced at the conference. The winner receives the coveted Golden Owl Trophy and a check for \$3,000. The award, in its third year, is made possible with the support of Nationwide.



Brittany Elmquist
Audubon High School



Dr. Michael Retallick
Iowa State University



Monty Collins
Pleasantville High School



Marcia Kilgard
Iowa Valley High School



Elisa Russ-Poggemiller
Clear Lake High School



Kylie Nettinga
Western Christian High School



Wyatt Forsyth
Wapsie Valley High School

Welcome new 2021 Iowa FFA Gold Standard Partners

Emblem Partner

\$25,000 - \$49,999



Blue Jacket Partner

\$10,000 - \$19,999



Rising Sun Partner

\$5,000 - \$9,999



Registration Now Open

No matter the size, your act of generosity will make a substantial impact to agricultural education in Iowa.

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FFA Enrichment Center [1055 SW Prairie Trail Pkwy. Ankeny, IA 50023](#)